

# A new species of *Poecilmitis* Butler (Lepidoptera Lycaenidae) from the Great Karroo

By C. G. C. DICKSON

*Poecilmitis beaufortia* spec. nov.

Male. Orange with light metallic blue from bases in both wings and with black markings generally as in *P. thyshe* (L.), but differing from this species in various respects and more closely related to *P. lysander* Pennington.

## Upperside.

*Forewing.* Blue extends up to the black discocellular mark and partly covers it (but is less extensive along costa), crosses the inner portion of area 2 and below vein 2 virtually obliterates the orange marking itself in this part of the wing. Costal black edging well defined beyond blue area, the usual black spots well developed in the orange area and the hindmarginal black border very well developed. Cilia chequered black and white, with the white spaces small but sharply defined.

*Hindwing.* Blue of very moderate extent, from base, and with the bluish-pink lustre over the orange field rather limited in extent. Black spots which are present in orange area, well defined; wing-margin edged with black. Innermarginal area blackish-grey, but with a light metallic lustre in some lights. Cilia black at the ends of the veins, with white to whitish intervening portions, some of which also contain some orange colouring—the black portions more or less pointed.

## Underside.

*Forewing.* The spots in the main orange area of wing well defined, the outer ones mainly entirely black, without steely centres. Submarginal streak black and conspicuous; terminal fawn-coloured area beyond it crossed by mainly orange veining, which, however, becomes black when approaching the wing-margin. Cilia fawn-coloured and black, slightly mixed with orange, and with small white divisions.

*Hindwing.* Ground colour brownish-fawn (with a partial somewhat orange tone) and less variegated over much of its surface than in some of the allied species. The larger silvery markings of this group very sharply defined but not very large in themselves, some with very dark colour adjoining them and this dark colouring prominent in the more basal portion of the wing. A relatively large sub-basal area, towards the inner-margin, bears some rather metallic scaling mixed with dark scaling (this patch being silvery-greyish in the holotype). Cilia much as in forewing.

Thorax black above with bluish-grey hairs and beneath more or less dull brown-coloured; abdomen black above, but only very narrowly towards anal end, ochreous-orange on sides and fawn-coloured beneath. Antennae dark brownish to black and whitish-grey beneath; the inner side of the club with some deep rufous colouring and this also occurring on the outer side near the tip.

Length of forewing: 13.25-13.75 mm.

♂ Holotype Nieuwveld Mtns. (at approximately 5,500 ft.), near Beaufort West, Western Cape Province, 4.x.1954 (collected by the writer); one ♂ paratype with same data. The holotype has been presented to the British Museum (Natural History) (British Museum type number: ♂ H.T., B.M. Type Rhop. No. 18454).

In this insect the "solid" blue of the forewing tends to be more extensive, in its lower area, and its demarkation more clear-cut than in *L. lysander*, and it can be distinguished from this species by its generally heavier black margins. On the underside the much darker and better developed submarginal line in the forewing, the generally deeper and somewhat more uniform ground colour of much of the hindwing, the clearness of the silvery markings and the conspicuous dark marking, in places, are other characteristic features of the present butterfly.

In the locality concerned, this very beautiful little butterfly occurred more than 2,500 ft. above the highest point at which *L. lysander* was actually observed.

A female specimen which was believed to be the female of this species was secured but it is considered advisable to wait until more females are obtained, before actually describing this sex.

The butterfly was encountered in limited numbers on the occasion concerned, on a steep slope below a krantz, facing approximately N.E. It was very lively and evasive when flying in the hot sunshine, and alert even after settling on the low scrubby bushes or on the ground itself, and specimens were captured with difficulty.

"Blencathra", Cambridge Avenue, St. Michael's Estate, Cape Town.

## Notes on the Microlepidoptera

By H. C. HUGGINS, F.R.E.S.

**Acleris lorquiniana Dup.** I read with great interest that Mr. Wakely has discovered this moth at Gosport. My own experiences, which range over more than fifty years, have been confined to the fens and the broads.

I first saw it at the end of June 1913 when B. A. Bower and I were collecting at Wicken. Though it was not common, a fair number came to our two sheets, which he let me have as he already had a good series, and in return I gave him my *Aristotelia morosa* Mühl. Bower then told me that there are three forms of *lorquiniana*, which he compared to three forms of *Chilodes maritima* Tausch.: the plain one unmarked except for a few specks corresponding to the type *maritima*, one with a large black spot in the middle of the forewing, paralleling ab. *bipunctata*, and lastly one with a broad brown line from the apex to the base of the wing, suggesting ab. *wismariensis*. He told me that the only form he had ever seen in the first brood was the one with the black discal spot, and the plain and striped forms belonged to the second brood. In my experience this has also been the case. I have since seen the moth at light in July at Barton Broad in 1936 and 1937 and all were of the spotted aberration. The late W. G. Sheldon did not agree with this but I fancy most of his were bought specimens whose dates might not be completely reliable.

Mr. Wakely has been both energetic and lucky in disturbing the moth by day; I have never seen it flying except to a light.

In early August 1924 I gathered a bunch of *Lythrum salicaria* on the bank of a ditch on the Woodbastwick estate when I was staying at the Ferry Hotel at Horning. This was put in a bag and apparently not tied tightly enough, for a couple of days later four or five green tortricid larvae looking rather like small *A. hastiana* L. were found crawling round